

Borough of Marlborough.

Extract from Annual
Report of M. O. H.

Population at last census. 3012.

Acreage. 196. No. of persons per acre 15.3.

Number of persons per inhabited house about. 6.

Death rate including 4 persons removed to the Infirmary & one
to the Savernake Hospital 17.9 per 1,000
Infant mortality 129.8.

Deaths occurring within the Borough 49.

Births. —————— 77.

Cases of sickness from the Poor Law Officers relief book
have been 47 in number as against 72 last year.

Sanitary condition of the Borough.

Water Supply. Up to the present the supply has been by
private wells, those on the north side of the High St being
for the most part deep wells those on the south side shallow
wells, many of which have been condemned. This
year the public water supply has been completed.

Drainage. The town is drained by 8 main sewers
opening into the river at as many places. These are
partly formed of glazed pipes & partly round brick sewers.
Most of the premises in the Borough have some connection
with the sewers either by water closets, sinks in the
house or by gutters in the back premises.

There are one or two recognized ventilating shafts to
each of these sewers. The sewers are fairly clean
where the fall is rapid, but those which I have seen
in the lower part of the town have a good deal of
deposit. The house drains are in some cases of glazed

pipes & in others of bricks, the latter usually very roughly constructed & leaking freely - The house drains for the most part open directly into the sewers without any intercepting arrangements & often have no ventilation. Where there is a water closet the soil pipe is in some cases not ventilated, in others only by a pipe of small caliber, in a few only is it carried up above the roof in its full caliber. In a few cases where there is no closet, there is a ventilating shaft on the sewer side of the yard fully, but this is the exception. When such shaft exists it acts as a ventilator to the sewer by means of the house drain.

There are still stack pipes opening directly into the drains, which act as ventilators to these and therefore to the sewers. Some of these have been altered during the past year -

The River. In the river at the outlets of these sewers, there are heaps of sewage which accumulate to their maximum towards the end of summer. The greatest accumulation is opposite the Knipbury St. sewer. After flood time such as has recently occurred the river becomes fairly clear.

Cesspits. The number of cesspit priories in the Borough is 148 (about). During the past year several have been done away with & water closets substituted. Many of the cesspits are of such a character that they cannot

be made to conform to the by-laws as regards emptying & cleaning - consequently many of them have been left for years - During the past year most of these have been cleaned out though there are still some that were reported last year unattended to.

Ash pits. The by-laws state that -

These receptacles shall not contain more than accumulates during one week -

That they shall be rendered inside with cement, that the floor shall be 3" over the surface of the surrounding ground & that they shall be properly covered

Further with regard to the keeping of cattle, that every person shall provide in connection with such premises a suitable receptacle for dung, manure, soil, filth, or other offensive or noxious matter

The Sanitary Inspector reports to me that there are about 54 refuse heaps none of which are in accordance with the by-laws -

Angel Yard is especially a nuisance in this respect - Some of the objectionable heaps have been removed during the past year.

Collection of House Refuse. The house refuse is deposited on certain days in the work in the street & collected by carts & removed to certain heaps situated outside the Borough in thoroughly isolated portions & then disposed of in various ways.

Its removal is carried out by contract.

I have in several reports commented on the method of this kind of scavenging - The refuse is deposited

in all sorts of receptacles, old wooden cases, parts, &c.
or simply deposited on the roadway. Garden refuse is
often added to the House refuse. Some ~~of the~~ receptacles
are piled up to over flowing. I have often seen children
playing about these boxes & selecting attractive articles
from them, during the time, often considerable, in
wh. the refuse remains in the shrubs.

Cottage Accommodation. Many houses have been
improved during the last year. There is still
great lack of cottage accommodation & in some
places the arrangements are not at all sanitary
i.e. backless cottages with small space in front &
insufficient sanitary conveniences. (Some quoted).

Bakehouses: inspected, all in good condition.

Slaughter houses well kept - one very unsanitary on
account of its construction, but well kept.

The Byelaws meet the requirements of the district
except I think in the matter of Cow keeping. There
should be some well defined regulations for the
guidance of those who have cow houses in the Borough
especially in reference to the drainage, flooring &
periodical cleansing of the walls.

The Cowsheds, dairies, & milkshops act is in force
Sanitary work of the Year.

The most important sanitary work of the year is
the completion of the public water supply. The well

is sunk in the chalk at the foot of the first Hill. The report of the County Analyst on the water is that "This water is an excellent drinking water" Its temporary hardness is 9 degrees. Permanent hardness 5 degrees.

Considerable discussion arose during the work upon the position of some of the mains with regard to the drains & sewers & I thought fit in one of my reports to state that there was cause for anxiety on this subject. The joints in many instances lay in a sewage saturated soil or immediately under leaky sewers & drains. In a few instances the joints were placed within house drains, wh. lay in the way. In others the house drains were very imperfect brick drains & discharged their contents into the soil above the position of the water mains.

In all instances where a joint or the pipe itself was situated in a drain, the drain has been carried under the water main by a bend. The most offending house drains were replaced by glazed pipes.

In one or two places new sewers have been constructed, Strut jetties. Several old strut jetties, made of brick, have been replaced by sanitary stone ware jetties.

Several of the main water stack pipes have been disconnected fr: the drains.

The Infectious Diseases Notification & Provention acts are in force.

There have been during the year 26 cases of Diphtheria reported & one case of scarlet fever. During the latter part of the year the Sanitary Authority have undertaken to arrange for the Bacteriological investigation of all cases of sore throat suspected of Diphtheria. By this means already some cases have been recognized which would probably not have been looked upon as being Diphtheria - viz. mild cases in wh: the illness did not last more than two or three days. It is intended now to regulate the return of children to school by Bacteriological investigation of the throats of the convalescents. I could trace no common origin of the outbreak. The cases arose almost entirely among children attending S. Mary's & S. Peter's schools. No suspicion fell on the milk or water. In three at any rate of the worst cases there were serious defects in the drainage & some throats had been common in the households. Eight occurred in the first half of the year & eighteen in the second half. Of the 26 cases, 9 died - 7 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, one of which died. The case of Scarlet fever occurred in June, which was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Addition of private nurses room to the isolation Hospital suggested.

Drainage & Sewage disposal.

The question of drainage & sewage disposal is becoming one of the most urgent sanitary consideration of the town & now that the water works are finished this consideration can no longer be postponed. Already the river is polluted with a large quantity of sewage & this will be increased now, since water supplied and pressure will facilitate the water carrying system of sewage removal & since nearly all the premises in the Borough can be put in connection with the present sewers, it is sure to be taken advantage of, by increasing numbers. But now that there is a water supply, a system of main drainage with some hope of success has become possible. And the longer the question is postponed, the more money will be spent in patching up old sewers & putting down new lengths wh: may have to be altered again when the drainage is thoroughly undertaken, to say nothing of the expenses of house owners in putting in house drains. Some of the old brick sewers cannot be kept free from deposit & consequently give rise to the formation of much gas. These will have to be replaced & the banks may have to be altered with consequent alteration in the house drains.

Special reports during the year.

- 1 Report on some Cesspits.
- 2 - - - on some Stack pipes going direct to drains
3. Detailed report of Cases of Diphtheria at the L.G.B.
- 4 Report on some defective drains at the High St.

Signed.

J. H. Haydn B.A. M.B.

Med. Off. of Health.